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Instructive too are certain theatrical notices. "June 13, 1751. Mrs. Davis hopes as the play is granted to enable her to buy off her time that ladies and gentlemen . . . will favour her benefit"; June 10. Mr. Jago "hopes that all . . . will favour him as he has never had a benefit before and is just out of prison" (p. 274). Pity for redemptioners and ex-convicts was then demanded as a halo to enhance dramatic efforts!

A letter from Elisha Parker to his sister in 1743, accompanying the last two volumes of *Pamela*, shows that New York shared fashions of literature as well as of garments with London. "I think 'em by far the most proper books of any I ever saw for the youth of both, but especially of your sex . . . I have too good an opinion of you to think that the assistance of books is wanted. However the more virtuously inclined the mind of any person is, the more will it delight in hearing of virtue praised and this with the advantage that it will be got by reading a stile so beautiful and natural as the stile of *Pamela*."

From the composite nature of its being, *Social New York* lacks in literary finish, but it has real value as a study of conditions. Its sturdy quality is especially grateful because there has been a plentiful crop of popular works about New York, which have handed on from one to another a long series of half-true commonplaces and inaccuracies anent New Amsterdam and her successor, from unsifted and unweighed authorities. Better work in the field is refreshing. Moreover there is a pleasant definiteness about Miss Singleton's framework. Her picture is confined to the Georgian epoch, her figures are the well-to-do, her topic is their life, and of all her treatment is effective and suggestive.

RUTH PUTNAM.

Ecclesiastical Records of the State of New York. Published by the state under the supervision of HUGH HASTINGS, state historian. (Albany: James B. Lyon. 1901. Two vols., pp. xxxv, 744; xxviii, 745-1442.)

ALTHOUGH published under the supervision of the state historian of New York, the actual work of compiling and arranging this collection has been in the hands of the Reverend Edwin Corwin, D.D. The original occasion for the undertaking seems to have been the discovery of material relating to the Dutch Reformed Church in New York which escaped the researches of John Romeyn Brodhead, to whom students of the history not only of New York but of the American colonies in general are so deeply indebted. Owing to the efforts of Brodhead seven volumes of the correspondence of the classis of Amsterdam were examined and transcribed, and seven bundles of letters from the American churches were first loaned and afterwards presented to the general synod of the Dutch Reformed Church in America. At the time it was thought that these bundles included all the extant letters from America; but Dr. Corwin has found others in the archives of the classis of Amsterdam, among them two portfolios from New York. Furthermore, he has searched the minutes of the classis of Amsterdam, of the deputies of the

classis on foreign affairs, and of the synod of North Holland, as well as the archives of the general synod at The Hague. The editor states that he found very little relating to his subject in the archives of the general synod, since most of the American correspondence was carried on with the classis of Amsterdam and the synod of North Holland. Of these various sources Brodhead's agents appear to have gone through only the minutes of the deputies, and even here in the most cursory way.

On the whole, the additional material brought to light by Dr. Corwin contains very little that is of more than purely local and sectarian interest. But granting the desirability of its publication by the state, and lights upon our colonial history and conditions however faint and flickering are always welcome, one is compelled to ask why the editor and the state historian thought fit to put forth the new matter in its present shape, involved and pieced out with extracts from previously printed works. We are told that "the general plan of the work contemplated an ecclesiastical history of New York, embracing every denomination, each secular narrative told by a representative member of the denomination, from the earliest Dutch times. To that end copious documentary records have been taken and utilized, and in order to forge missing links to the chain, quotations from standard religious publications have been made." In comparison with this statement it is interesting to note that the first appropriation of the legislature in 1899 was "for the translation of copied documents in the possession of the ecclesiastical archives of Amsterdam and The Hague, relating to the colonial history of the State of New York, and for their preparation for publication." Dr. Corwin justifies the incorporation of other material as adding "but little to the bulk of the work" and making it more "unique and complete" as "Original Documents Relating to all the Religious Bodies of Colonial Times in New York and New Jersey." Certainly a very generous portion, and of this the most significant and valuable, is made up of a potpourri of extracts from such well-known and accessible works as the *Documents relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York*; *The Documentary History of the State of New York*; O'Callaghan's *History of New Netherland*; Brodhead's *History of the State of New York*, to cite only those most frequently drawn upon. Since only about fifty per cent. of the material in hand has been used, and since the records stop at the year 1701 without any evident reason or explanation, it would seem that the space taken up with fragmentary excerpts from documents which every serious student prefers to consult in extenso might have been devoted to including the new material up to the Revolution. It should be noted that the editor has been very conscientious in citing the sources of his borrowings.

A word or two needs to be said concerning the execution of the task. The documents, of which about one-third relate to the Dutch period, are arranged in chronological order under the heads of the respective governors. While the table of contents is careful and adequate, there is unfortunately no index. In the body of the work the references should have been in a type different from that used in the text. In gen-

eral, though volume and page are cited, one can note some curious lapses. For example, it is stated that the letter of Reverend Jonas Michaelis of New Amsterdam, written August 11, 1628, to Reverend Adrian Smantius (and others) of the classis of New Amsterdam (I. 49-68) has already been translated by Honorable Henry C. Murphy in 1858 and revised by Reverend John C. Fagg, of the Collegiate Church of New York, in 1896. But there is nothing, either at the head or at the foot of the letter, to indicate where the translation or original can be found. Likewise, letters from Reverend Caspar Van Zuuren, October 30, 1681, and from Reverend Rudolphus Varick, April 9, 1693, to the classis (II. 790-795, 1048-1053) lack specific references. We are to infer from a casual note that the latter has already been translated. There are, too, cases of vague or inadequate citations. For instance, there is a reference to Blackstone, p. 105, omitting volume and edition (II. 1080); and to *Patents* VII. 25 seq. and 82 seq., for the originals of the first charters to the Dutch Reformed Church in 1696 and to Trinity Church in 1697 without indicating further where they are to be found (II. 1136-1165). Finally, it is hardly sufficient to refer simply to the pages or sections of the *Council Journals* and the *Acts of Assembly*. Of the eight illustrations two are reproductions respectively of "an old manuscript," and of "an old manuscript from the Dutch Records." It would have added interest to state the particular manuscript in each case. The two volumes are tastefully bound in dark red and gold.

ARTHUR LYON CROSS.

The Administration of Dependencies. A Study of the Evolution of the Federal Empire, with special reference to American Colonial Problems. By ALPHEUS H. SNOW. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1902. Pp. vii, 619.)

THE title of this book is somewhat misleading, for it does not deal with methods of administration, but with the theory of the relation of dependencies to the home government. The object of the author is to maintain the thesis that the United States together with its dependencies constitute a federal empire which is governed by the American Union as the imperial state; that the powers of the latter are not unconditional or unlimited, but dispositive and quasi-judicial; and that the clause of the Federal Constitution by which Congress is given power "to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory and other property belonging to the United States," contains an exhaustive and well-reasoned theory of the administration of dependencies. To show that this view has always been fundamental in American politics the author adduces a vast amount of historical proof, so that his work might well be called a history of the theory respecting the relation of dependencies to the home government.

The author endeavors to prove that the idea of a federal relationship between colonies and mother-country, and the requirement of expert management in colonial affairs constituted the basis of the British system